

designed to be fed through a machine having a platen provided with longitudinally extending, work-feeding ribs, characterized in that each element of the chain has a longitudinally extending groove for cooperation with the ribs of the platen.

11. A flexible chain according to claim 6, which is designed to be fed through a machine having a platen provided with work-feeding pins, characterized in that each of the index elements of the chain has holes for cooperation with the pins of the platen.

12. A flexible chain according to claim 6, wherein the means for hinging each element to adjacent elements is so constructed and arranged that any selected element may be separated from adjacent elements without permanently deforming or injuring the elements from which it is separated.

13. A flexible chain according to claim 6, wherein the narrow edges and the tongue and sockets of each element are so shaped and dimensioned that when the strip or chain is placed upon a flat surface, those wide faces of the elements which are designed to receive indicia form a substantially uninterrupted flat surface.

14. A flexible chain according to claim 6, wherein the tongue and socket extend uninterruptedly from end to end of each element.

15. A flexible index device comprising a series of index elements hinged together to form a strip or chain capable of being fed through apparatus having strip advancing means, each index element comprising a main or body portion of generally rectangular contour in trans-

verse section, having approximately parallel relatively wide faces and relatively narrow edges, at least one of said wider faces being smooth and appropriate to receive indicia, each element being provided with means whereby such element may be hingedly connected to like elements, thereby to form the flexible strip or chain, the hinging means being so devised as to permit any selected element to be separated from adjacent elements without permanently deforming said adjacent elements and without disturbing the sequence of the remaining elements, the hinge means comprising a retaining tongue or hinge pin projecting out from one narrow edge of each element and a socket or hinge knuckle in the opposite edge of said element, the tongue and socket of each element being located between the planes of said wider faces of the element so that their presence does not increase the effective thickness of the strip or chain nor produce protuberances which would interfere with the smooth advance movement of the strip or chain through the apparatus in which it is employed, each index element being of a material which is sufficiently tough, strong and durable to assure continuity of the strip or chain when passing through the apparatus with which it is employed.

#### References Cited in the file of this patent

##### UNITED STATES PATENTS

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##### FOREIGN PATENTS

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